

On 9/22/20, we held a conference call with County Commissioner Steve Aldrich and County Engineer Parthana Banjeri. Attendees for the HOA were Rick Bennett, Anita Dunkin, Brenda Hiler, and Dennis Hethcoat. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the straightening of I&GN Road from Greens Prairie to the entrance of Saddle Creek.

County Engineer Parthana Banerji gave us some background on the project:

The County under former County Engineer Alan Munger hired a consultant and had a preliminary design for the project. They acquired the right of way (ROW) that was specified under that preliminary plan. The County subsequently hired a new consultant who recommended a new design that would be better and safer, but also requires the acquisition of additional ROW. The County has hired an outside appraiser and is making offers to obtain the additional property needed.

The project is 100% designed. In order for the project to move forward:

- The County must acquire the remaining ROW. The County Engineer thought there were 7-8 properties pending.
- Once the ROW is acquired, the project will be put out for bid – takes about 8 weeks
- BTU must relocate pole(s)
- Frontier must relocate their lines
- Wellborn SUD water line will be moved when the dirt work starts

The current project cost is \$3.1 million, but the exact cost will not be known until it goes out for bid. The money for the project is in the 2022 budget, which runs October 2021-September 2022. The project is expected to take 8-10 months to complete once dirt work starts. The County is supposed to notify us prior to the start of the work.

When the project is complete:

- Roadway will be two 15 foot lanes (currently two 11 foot)
- Have 2 foot shoulders on both sides
- Have concrete reinforced drain pipes
- County will repair driveways affected

Brazos County currently does road & bridge work as they have the money in the bank. Commissioner Aldrich has been working to get Commissioners Court to use some debt to expedite the construction projects due to the rapid growth of the County. He indicated construction costs were going up faster than the cost of the debt and that for fiscal years 2022-2026 we could maintain the current \$.5 per 100 tax rate while adding \$70 million in road projects. The County has also hired Innovation Transportation to help the County obtain more state and federal money for projects.

One other item Commissioner Aldrich brought up was 2050 Metropolitan Housing Organization (MPO) 2050 concept map. This long range planning map shows a roadway that will run between Saddle Creek and Winding Creek, basically down the railway easement. The MPO maps can be viewed at bcsmmpo.org.